Modernisation of airstrips

924. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government propose to give out 300 airstrips in the country for modernisation under Public Private Partnership model; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There are a large number of non-operational and disused airports in the country. These airports are with Airports Authority of India (AAI) , Defence, State Governments and private licencees. Government is keen to promote development of such airports and make them operational to meet the growing need of airport infrastructure. No decision has been taken on the manner and instrumentality in which these airstrips could be modernised.

Capacity level of AAI in airports management

925. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent times AAI is adding up its capacity level in the airports management: and

(b) if so, the details of improvement that AAI achieved in terms of this, over the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken several steps to upgrade its capacity levels, including recruitments in crucial operational cadres. During the past 5 years *i.e.* 2003-07, AAI has recruited 438 Junior Executives in various engineering disciplines and 301 Junior Executives in Air Traffic Management Department. Besides AAI has an ongoing programme of upgrading management skill of executives at all levels through training and exposure to advanced technology and best industry practices.

Social responsibilities towards environment

926. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Undertakings are reporting on social responsibilities towards environment etc., as per Companies Act; and

(b) whether the trend is on the increase or decrease?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) There is no requirement under the Companies Act, 1956 for Public Sector Undertakings to report on social responsibilities, such as towards environment etc.